PATENT

MS164185.01/MSFTP215US

Thomas E. Shortledge

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 703-872-9306 on the date shown below to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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JAN 3 1 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In repatent application of:

Applicant(s): Eric J. Horvitz, et al.

09/896,187

Filing Date:

Serial No:

Examiner:

2654 Art Unit:

June 29, 2001

Title: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR INFERRING INFORMATIONAL GOALS AND

PREFERRED LEVEL OF DETAIL OF ANSWERS

Mail Stop Amendment **Commissioner for Patents** P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to an examination of the subject patent application, please amend the application as indicated below.